

Superintendent's Communication Brief: May 6 - May 11, 2019

This week, Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Mr. Dan Callahan met with local business owner Mr. Bre Pettis to discuss potential opportunities for student internships and teacher trainings as Mr. Pettis prepares to open the doors of Bantam Tools' Peekskill facility.



This week, Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Robin Zimmerman, Peekskill High School teacher Ms. April Kellam and Administrative Assistant Ms. Joanne Clark helped to prepare a display of prom dresses available to our high school students free of charge. This is part of an annual effort to support our students' needs.



The Peekskill Parent Teacher Organization hosted a “Meet the Candidate” forum at the Administration Building on Monday night to give residents an opportunity to pose questions to this year’s candidates. There are three seats up for election. Michael Simpkins (Incumbent), Maria Pereira (Incumbent) and Jillian Villion (Incumbent) are running. You may [click here](#) to read their biographies. Additional information on our [Board Election and 2019-2020 proposed budget can be found here](#). You can also [check out the online version of our print budget newsletter](#) before it hits your mailbox. Please remember to come out and vote on Tuesday, May 21 from 7AM-9PM at Peekskill High School.



Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke visited lunch periods at Peekskill High School this week to recruit young ladies for PCSD’s Girls Global Alliance, a new women’s empowerment group coming to PHS shortly. The initiative is looking for interested students, as well as positive female mentors to be a part of the program. You can contact sclark@peekskillschools.org for more information.



As a follow-up interview to the recently published Saturday Academy article, Dr. Mauricio met with journalist Ms. Maria del Carmen Amado of Westchester Hispano to talk about the “Peekskill Promise,” as well as highlights from the school year and forthcoming plans for next year. After her interview with Dr. Mauricio, Ms. Carmen Amado went to the District’s Lisa Roller Parent Center to meet with Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores to discuss the Parent Center’s resources that are available to our families.



As mentioned in last week’s brief, Dr. Mauricio was invited to be a guest on Peekskill United’s local cable access show. The group filmed a segment at the Lisa Roller Parent Center last week and the video is now available to watch [here](#). Topics of the show included the District’s “Peekskill Promise,” past successes, current accomplishments and where we are headed in regards to our District’s effort to continually improve student outcomes. Dr. Mauricio continues to meet with various organizations to ensure transparency and share our efforts as a District.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Mr. Dan Callahan, Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace, Director of Security Mr. David Santiago, Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey, Peekskill Police Chief Don Hamley and Peekskill Youth Bureau Executive

Director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald met at City Hall this week to take part in a pre-planning meeting as the City of Peekskill and the school district discuss ways to support our students on their pathway to adult success.



Dr. Mauricio visited Hillcrest Elementary's Good News Club, an afterschool program run by Peekskill residents Mr. and Mrs. Urbanowicz. While visiting, Dr. Mauricio was treated to a wonderful performance as strings students played cellos and violins for those in attendance.



Dr. Mauricio joined Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey and Councilwoman Patricia Riley for a monthly senior citizen meeting at City Hall. Dr. Mauricio spoke to our seniors about District highlights and invited them to be guests at our future Saturday Academy sessions.



Our PHS Girls Softball players recently helped to raise awareness about breast cancer at their May 6 home game against Yonkers' Gorton High School. The team also raised funds to donate to breast cancer research. We congratulate the girls on their 9-6 win over Gorton and thank them for their community service! The Varsity team is led by Coach Pete Capozzelli and the JV team is led by Coach Anthony Di Cuio. You can read more about the girls' efforts [here](#).



The Peekskill City School District would like to recognize Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Joseph Mosey who completed the Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) School at Cornell's "Managing Organizational Conflict" Certification at PNW BOCES.



Assistant Superintendents Dr. Mosey and Mr. Callahan, along with Coordinator of Student Support Services Ms. Sadika Clarke, represented Peekskill Schools at the NYC Teacher Job Fair this week. Current available positions can be found on our District website under [“Employment Opportunities.”](#)



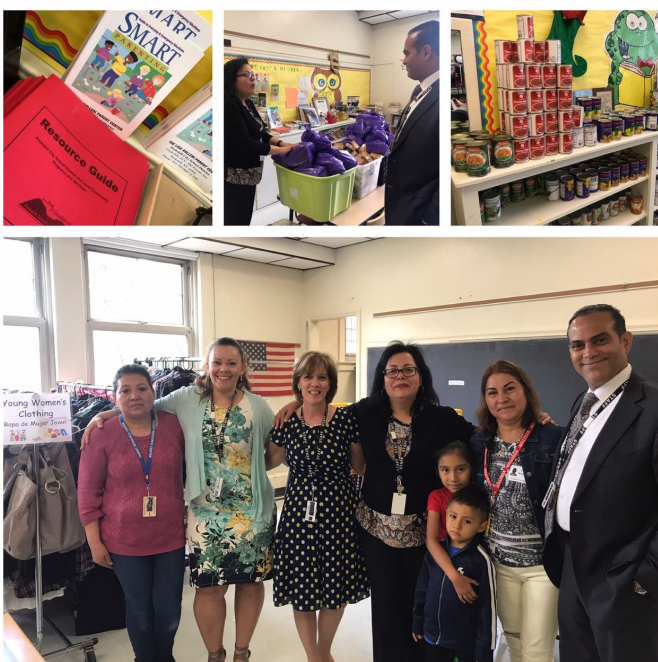
Our Uriah Hill spring concert was adorable, as always! Our littlest students always manage to put big smiles on our faces! Director of Early Childhood Ms. Carmen Vargas and her team did a wonderful job preparing students to perform for guests on a beautifully decorated stage. See more photos from the event [here](#).



This week, Dr. Mauricio and Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey joined our Peekskill Board of Education members in honoring our Peekskill High School students in the PHS Academic Competition Club, who won first place in the Westchester Business Olympics. Dr. Mauricio, the Board and Mayor Rainey also recognized our Peekskill Science Research (PSR) students who attended the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF). Additionally, Peekskill Science Research Teacher Ms. Erum Hadi was also recognized for her work leading the PSR program. Before the awards ceremony concluded, Mayor Rainey also recognized Dr. Mauricio with a certificate noting his dedicated leadership at Peekskill Schools.



As part of his weekly School Supports visits, Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Dr. Mary Keenan Foster joined Mrs. Carmen Vargas to tour Uriah Hill. While visiting, the group stopped into our Lisa Roller Parent Center, where our parent volunteers and high school students have been helping to organize donations, informational resources, toys and books. While our volunteers help stock the room, Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores is busy greeting our new families and telling them about the wonderful things available to them at Peekskill Schools!



PCSD Administrators opted for a change of scenery for this week's Ad Council meeting. The group gathered in Peekskill High School's planetarium to hear more about how the room is used from PHS Science Teacher Mrs. Michelle Obenauer. Before the meeting, the group enjoyed a brief clip of one of the films available for student viewing.



Thank you to all who attended the opening reception of our District-wide Art Show at Westchester Community College's Peekskill extension this week! All artwork will remain on display until the end of the month. Please stop in and see the array of beauty created by our students under the direction of our amazing art teachers. You can see more photos from the event [here](#).



Congratulations to our 36 Peekskill Middle School students who were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society this week! We applaud the hard work and dedication of our students and thank the families and teachers that supported them along the way. You can see more photos from this event [here](#).



Earlier this week, our Girls' and Boys' Track Teams competed at the League Championship meet that took place at Yorktown and Somers High School. Both teams were very successful,

bringing home a total of 21 medals!

Girls' Team:

London Claxton - 3 Medals (Bronze in 1500, Silver in 800, Silver in 4x100)

Yeymily Conde- 1 Medal (Silver in 4x100)

Vania Diaz- 1 Medal (Silver in 4x100)

Jada Frye- 1 Medal (Bronze in Shot Put)

Kaitlan Nelson- 1 Medal (Silver in 4X100, and was a finalist in the 100 and 200)

Boy's Team:

Steven Henson- Won All-League in the 100 and 200 Dash and 3 Medals (Gold in 100m, Gold in 200m, Bronze in 4X100)

Artis Powell- 4 Medals- (Silver in 400, Silver in 200, Silver in 4x200, Bronze in 4x100)

Darius Snipes- 3 Medals- (Bronze in High Jump, Bronze in 4x100, Silver in 4x400)

Kai Brown - 1 Medal (Silver in 4x400)

Omar Dinnall- 1 Medal (Bronze in 4x100)

Jarrett Lloyd - 1 Medal (Silver in 4x400)

Malachi McDonald- 1 Medal (Silver in Triple Jump)

Congratulations to all!



Thank you to Peekskill High School's Coach Rice for sharing a few pictures of the Lacrosse team's "Senior Day," which was also their final home game of the season. The game was a great team effort that resulted in a 6-4 win against Yonkers. Congratulations to our senior athletes: Carlos Lopez, Oscar Vigil, James Skinner-Cowan and Jacques Vermandois on earning a win at their last home game!



Our Peekskill High School Spring Concert took place this week. The event featured our guitar ensemble, concert band, chorus and the PHS City Singers. Special guests for the evening included retired PCSD music teacher Mr. Dave Thomas who joined for several songs on piano. Composers from Copland House also joined us for the evening to watch as the band played a collaborative composition done in partnership with the organization. The evening was bittersweet as students and staff bid Mr. Del Casale a happy retirement and applauded his last PHS concert after many years with PCSD. See more photos from the event [here](#). Listen to “Madrugada” by Ernesto Cordero as performed by Maria Salazar and Mr. Del Casale by clicking [here](#).



Our DTSDE Parent Survey is now open! We need feedback from our parents about our curriculum, school leadership, engagement, teacher practices and more. Check your email for

an invitation and survey link, or [click here](#) to take it now! All responses are strictly confidential! The survey will be open until May 24.



The Peekskill City School District hosted our final Saturday Academy session of the school year today at Peekskill Middle School. The day began with a free Mother's Day brunch and featured fun outdoor activities and workshops. Thank you to all of our guests who have made this year's Academy a success!



Enjoy your weekend and we wish all of our moms a very Happy Mother's Day!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools